(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System Registration is going to become mandatory for the Indians going to U.S.A. for study; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (d) According to information released by the U.S. Government, all educational institutions and exchange visitor programme sponsors in the United States have been directed that, from 30 January, 2003, documents issued by them to enable students to apply for visa must be created within the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) for the purpose of electronic verification of prospective student and exchange visitor status of the applicants. This requirement is for academic institutions and sponsors in the United States, not the students, and has to be fulfilled for students from all countries.

Differences over infiltration from Bangladesh

256. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that difference of opinion has arisen between Government and the Government of Bangladesh over the question of illegal infiltration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up this with the Government of Bangladesh at their diplomatic/political level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (d) The Government of India is seriously concerned about large scale, illegal cross border movement from Bangladesh to India. Though India has taken up the issue of illegal migration including, *inter alia*, the issue of repatriation of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh with the Government of Bangladesh regularly, the Government of Bangladesh has denied that illegal migration from Bangladesh into India is taking place.

2. Both countries have an institutionalised framework to discuss issues related to border management through regular meetings of Directors General of the BSF and Bangladesh Rifles, Joint Working Group and Home Secretary level talks. In addition, regular field level meetings between civilian authorities and border forces take place. The problem of illegal immigration has also been taken up by India with the Government of Bangladesh at the political level in addition to being discussed in the institutional framework.

3. During the visit of Mr. M. Morshed Khan, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh on June 16-17, 2002, the need for tightening border control to prevent illegal cross-border movement was discussed in detail. External Affairs Minister had taken up this issue with Bangladesh during his visit to Dhaka in August 2002. Most recently this was discussed in detail with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister again when he visited India on 13-16 February, 2003. Both countries agreed to take necessary steps to control cross border illegal movements.

4. A tighter border control is expected to lead to decrease in the number of illegal migrants. The situation is being monitored by the Government.

Extradition treaty with France

257. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an extradition treaty with France;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to sign such treaties with other countries also; and

(d) how the extradition treaties are helping in solving the problem of terrorism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) The Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister signed the extradition treaty